

September 26, 2003

**ALERT!**  
**Preliminary HSPA Information**  
**Update**

To: Chief School Administrator  
Charter School Lead Person  
School Principal

From: Isaac Bryant, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

Subject: Early Warning Status under the *No Child Left Behind* Accountability  
Requirements for High Schools

Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) sent you a preliminary advisory that a high school in your district did not meet the adequate yearly progress benchmarks for 2003 under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). The attached status report, *Early Warning Status Under No Child Left Behind Accountability Requirements: 2003* summarizes the indicators that were analyzed using preliminary 2003 assessment data to generate this notification. This summary specifically identifies the following:

- The total number of indicators met;
- Whether participation rates for the total population and for all student subgroups represented in your school were met; and
- Whether adequate yearly progress benchmarks for the total school population and for student subgroups were met.

Please refer to the attached "Key Points" document that will assist in understanding the report.

The results of this analysis are preliminary; certain data are not included in this review. They are: the final cycle II data, the secondary measure (high school drop-out rate), and the Alternate Proficiency Assessment results. Final status reports will be released in December 2003 that include these data, making the analysis complete. We do not expect anything but very minimal changes in December.

You are encouraged to review your 2003 high school assessment data to analyze this status report. The assessment data and the status report are considered public information and should be shared with your staff, board of education and constituents.

On October 3, 2003, the NJDOE will be issuing information to the media and to the general public about the NCLB accountability requirements for high schools. At that time, a list of the high schools in "early warning" status will be released. Although we are not required to release the list, we think the information about the schools identified will help us emphasize the unnecessary and unfortunate problems that much of the implementation of NCLB causes.

The federal AYP requirements and strict implementation timelines of NCLB are intricate. Despite these complexities, please view this process as a challenge to enhance the superior educational opportunities in our state. Your continued commitment to assure that all students in New Jersey meet high standards is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need further information about the NCLB single accountability requirements, please contact Linda Dold-Collins, director, Office of Title I Program Planning and Accountability at (609) 943-4283.

IB/LDC/so

Attachments

c: Members, State Board of Education  
William L. Librera  
Dwight Pfennig  
Gloria Hancock  
Senior Staff  
Jon Zlock  
Diane Schonyers  
County Superintendent